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			2168	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because Figure 1 lacks unity. Applicant should delete the boxes labeled Open Digital Marketplaces/Applications 40, Operating System 30, and Network & Systems Infrastructure 32. Applicant should add the numeral "28" under Internet Service Deployment Platform. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

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consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stokes et al. ("The LDUP Replication Update Protocol"), van Hoff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,536), and Cole et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,074,434).

4. Stokes renders obvious independent claim 1 by the following:

"...a supplier server..." at p. 3, sec. 4.

"...a consumer server in communication with the supplier server..." at p. 3, sec. 4.

"...that manage replication of data contained within the directory server..." at p. 3, sec. 3.

"...from the supplier server to the consumer server..." at p. 3, sec. 4.

"...and a replica update vector..." at p. 6, sec. 5.2.

"...wherein the replica update vector..." at p. 6, sec. 5.2.

"...to synchronize the consumer server with respect to the supplier server..." at p. 2, sec. 3 and p. 3, sec. 4.

"...to synchronize the consumer server with the supplier server..." at p. 2, sec. 3 and p. 3, sec. 4.

"...wherein replication of data is managed using the replica update vector..." p. 6, sec. 5.2.

Stokes does not teach the use of pluggable services, directory trees, performing comparisons, and the determining of a minimal set of updates.

5. However van Hoff teaches the use of pluggable services and directory trees as follows:

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“...a plurality of pluggable services...” col. 10, lines 60-63.

“...containing entries of a portion of a directory information tree...” at col. 9, lines 56-58.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine van Hoff with Stokes to provide pluggable services in order to provide access to update applications from a variety of sources. Likewise, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine van Hoff with Stokes to provide hierarchical tree directories in order to use directory tree structures, which are common to many operating systems and gain acceptance from potential users. Stokes and van Hoff have similar applications and use many technologies in common. Stokes and van Hoff teach the use of directories, the use of protocol, the use of servers, the updating of data, and the use of numbers. Stokes provides consumer and supplier servers and replica update vectors and van Hoff provides pluggable services and directory trees.

Van Hoff does not teach the performing comparisons and the determining of a minimal set of entries.

6. However, Cole teaches the performing comparisons and the determining of a minimal set of entries as follows:

“...used to perform a comparison to determine a minimal set of entries necessary...” at col. 4, lines 4-8, col. 6, lines 61-67, and col. 11, lines 44-47.

“...wherein the minimal set of entries is the smallest possible set of entries necessary...” at col. 6, lines 61-67 and col. 11, lines 44-47.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Cole with Stokes and van Hoff to provide the determination of a minimal set of entries in order to reduce the amount of processing required and lower the cost of maintaining synchronized servers. Stokes, van Hoff, and Cole have similar applications and use many technologies in common. Stokes, van Hoff, and Cole teach the use of directories, the use of protocol, the use of servers, the updating of data, the use of directories, and the use of numbers and van Hoff and Cole teach the use of computers, the use of databases, and the use of networks. Stokes provides consumer and supplier servers and replica update vectors, Crowe provides pluggable services, and Cole performs comparisons and determines a minimal set of updates. For independent claim 1, the term "itemized list" is used to suggest the term "set of entries".

7. As per claim 2, the "...replica update vector..." is taught by Stokes at p. 6, sec. 5.2, and the "...is persistently stored in a directory information tree..." is taught by van Hoff at col. 6, lines 16-21..

8. As per claim 4, the "...replica update vector comprises a change sequence number for each known replica..." is taught by Stokes at p. 6, sec. 5.2 and p. 9, sec. 5.3.2.2 and the "...and a description of a latest update received from a corresponding replica..." is taught by Stokes at p. 10, sec. 5.3.2.5 and p. 3, sec. 3.

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9. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stokes, van Hoff, and Cole as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Wong et al. (U.S. Patent No, 6,353,834).

As per claim 3, the "...memory representation of the replica update vector..." is taught by Stokes at p. 7, sec. 5.3 and p. 6, sec. 5.2, but the "...comprises a change sequence number pending list..." is not taught by either Stokes, van Hoff, or Cole.

However, Wong teaches the use of a change sequence number pending list as follows:

"...These log records record changes to information in the preceding message block so that a complete history of changes to that particular message block are annotated..." at col. 8, lines 33-36.

"...As can be seen, in one embodiment, the header includes the number of segments in a queue file 122, the segment size 124, the QEMT sequence number or timestamp 126, the sequence number of the last log record in the previous segment 128, the current segment number 130, the queue head pointer 132, the queue tail pointer 134, the next available block in the current segment 136, the list of QEMT entries 138, the reservation table of disk blocks 140, the pending transaction list acting as coordinator 142 and the pending transaction list acting as participant 144..." at col. 9, lines 7-18.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Wong with Stokes, van Hoff, and Cole to provide a change sequence number pending list in order to provide orderly coordination for the coming update. Stokes, van Hoff, Cole and Wong have similar applications and use many technologies in common. Stokes, van Hoff, Cole, and Wong teach the use of protocol, the use of servers, the

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updating of data, and the use of numbers and van Hoff, Cole, and Wong teach the use of computers, databases, and networks. Stokes consumer and supplier servers and replica update vectors, van Hoff provides pluggable services and directory trees, Cole performs comparisons and determines a minimal set of entries, and Wong provides change sequence number pending lists.

10. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stokes, van Hoff, and Cole as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No, 6,393,434).

As per claim 5, the "...replica update vector..." is taught by Stokes at p. 6, sec. 5.2, but the "...is accessed through an application programming interface..." is not taught by either Stokes, van Hoff, or Cole.

However, Huang teaches the accessing through an application programming interface as follows:

"...A handheld client (such as a Palm Pilot) can obtain a connection to a network (such as the Internet or a local area network (LAN)) by dialing up to a network remote access server through a modem, or by having a direct serial-port connection (e.g., using the Palm Pilot cradle) to a computer (e.g., a desktop PC) that is connected to the network 105..." at col. 7, lines 33-39.

"...The executable code used by the server 107 or the client 101 to communicate with the proxy 102 (or directly with the counterpart client of the server 107) for synchronization is referred to as a sync API (Application Program Interface) 206 (further described with respect to FIG. 13 below)..." at col. 8, lines 9-14.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Huang with Stokes, van Hoff, and Cole to provide access through an application programming interface in order to allow users of application programs to use common features of many operating systems to interface with operating systems.

Stokes, van Hoff, Cole, and Huang have similar applications and use many technologies in common. Stokes, van Hoff, Cole, and Huang teach the use of directories, the use of protocol, the use of servers, the updating of data, and the use of numbers and van Hoff, Cole, and Huang teach the use of computers, databases, and networks. Stokes consumer and supplier servers and replica update vectors, Crowe provides pluggable services and network trees, Cole performs comparisons and determines a minimal set of entries, and Huang provides application program interfaces.

11. Claims 6-8, 10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stokes et al. ("The LDUP Replication Update Protocol"), Prasad et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,539,381), and Cole et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,074,434).

12. Stokes renders obvious independent claims 6 and 13 by the following:

"...requesting a replica update vector..." at p. 6, sec. 5.2.

"...from a consumer server..." at p. 3, sec. 4.

"...wherein the replica update vector..." at p. 6, sec. 5.2.

"...sending the replica update vector from the consumer server to a supplier server..." at p. 6, sec. 5.2.

"...of the consumer server with the replica update vector of the supplier server..." at p. 3, sec. 4 and p. 6, sec. 5.2.

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“...to synchronize the consumer server with the supplier server...” at p. 2, sec. 3 and p. 3, sec. 4.

“...from the supplier server as an update to the replica update vector of the consumer server...” at p. 3, sec. 4 and p. 6, sec. 5.2.

Stokes does not teach the comparing of replicate update vectors, the use of directory trees, and the use of a minimal set of entries.

13. However, Prasad teaches the requesting of replicate update vectors and the comparing of replicate update vectors as follows:

“...comprises entries of a portion of a directory information tree...” at col. 9, lines 66-67, col. 10, lines 1-2, col. 9, lines 10-15, and col. 8, lines 22-26.

“...comparing the replicate update vector...” at col. 8, lines 51-55.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Prasad with Stokes to provide comparing replicate update vectors to determine whether two sets of updates are identical or different in order to have a fast means of comparing data and conserve processing time on the computer. Likewise, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Prasad with Stokes to provide hierarchical tree directories in order to use directory tree structures, which are common to many operating systems and gain acceptance from potential users. Stokes and Prasad have similar applications and use many technologies in common. Stokes and Prasad teach the use of directories, the use of protocol, the use of servers, the updating of data, the use of sequences, the use of numbers, and the use of vectors. Stokes provides consumer and supplier servers and replica update vectors

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and Prasad provides requesting and comparing replicate update vectors and directory trees.

Prasad does not teach the use of a minimal set of entries.

14. However, Cole teaches the use of a minimal set of entries as follows:

“...to obtain a minimal set of entries...” at col. 6, lines 61-67 and col. 11, lines 44-47.

“...wherein the minimal set of entries is the smallest possible set of entries necessary...”

at col. 6, lines 61-67 and col. 11, lines 44-47.

“...and sending the minimal set of entries...” at col. 6, lines 50-52, col. 6, lines 61-67, and col. 11, lines 44-47.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Cole with Stokes and Prasad to provide a minimal set of entries in order to define the smallest amount of entries required to maintain consistency between two systems and conserve processing time on the computer. Stokes, Prasad, and Cole have similar applications and use many technologies in common. Stokes, Prasad, and Cole teach the use of directories, the use of protocol, the use of servers, the updating of data, the use of numbers, and the use of sessions and Prasad and Cole teach the use computers, the use of databases, and the use of networks. Stokes provides consumer and supplier servers and replica update vectors, Prasad provides comparing replicate update vectors and directory trees, and Cole provides minimal sets of entries.

15. As per claim 7, the “...exchanging the replica update vector...” is taught by Stokes at p. 11, sec. 5.4

and the "...at the beginning of a replication session...", is taught by Stokes at p. 5, sec. 4.2.

In claim 7, the term "replace" is used to suggest the term "exchange".

16. As per claim 8, the "...the replica update vector...", is taught by Stokes p. 6, sec. 5.2, and the "...is persistently stored in a directory information tree...", is taught by Prasad at col. 7, lines 9-13 and col. 8, lines 22-26.

17. As per claim 10, the "...replica update vector comprises a change sequence number for each known replica...", is taught by Stokes at p. 6, sec. 5.2 and p. 9, section 5.3.2.2 and the "...and a description of a latest update received from a corresponding replica...", is taught by Stokes at p. 10, sec. 5.3.2.5 and p. 2, sec. 3.

18. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stokes, Prasad, and Cole as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Wong.

As per claim 9, the "...memory representation of the replica update vector...", is taught by Stokes at p. 7, sec. 5.3 and p. 6, sec. 5.2, but the "...comprises a change sequence number pending list...", is not taught by either Stokes, Prasad, or Cole.

However, Wong teaches the use of a change sequence number pending list as follows:

"...These log records record changes to information in the preceding message block so that a complete history of changes to that particular message block are annotated..." at col. 8, lines 33-36.

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"...As can be seen, in one embodiment, the header includes the number of segments in a queue file 122, the segment size 124, the QEMT sequence number or timestamp 126, the sequence number of the last log record in the previous segment 128, the current segment number 130, the queue head pointer 132, the queue tail pointer 134, the next available block in the current segment 136, the list of QEMT entries 138, the reservation table of disk blocks 140, the pending transaction list acting as coordinator 142 and the pending transaction list acting as participant 144..." at col. 9, lines 7-18.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Wong with Stokes, Prasad, and Cole to provide a change sequence number pending list in order to provide orderly coordination for the coming update. Stokes, Prasad, Cole, and Wong have similar applications and use many technologies in common. Stokes, Prasad, Cole, and Wong teach the use of directories, the use of protocol, the use of servers, the updating of data, and the use of numbers and Prasad, Cole, and Wong teach the use of computers, the use of databases, and the use of networks. Stokes provides consumer and supplier servers and replica update vectors, Prasad provides comparing replicate update vectors and directory trees, Cole provides minimal sets of entries, and Wong provides change sequence number pending lists.

19. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stokes, Prasad, and Cole as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Huang.

As per claim 11, the "...replica update vector..." is taught by Stokes at p. 6, sec. 5.2, but the "...is accessed through an application programming interface..." is not taught by either Stokes, Prasad, or Cole.

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However, Huang teaches the accessing through an application programming interface as follows:

"...A handheld client (such as a Palm Pilot) can obtain a connection to a network (such as the Internet or a local area network (LAN)) by dialing up to a network remote access server through a modem, or by having a direct serial-port connection (e.g., using the Palm Pilot cradle) to a computer (e.g., a desktop PC) that is connected to the network 105..." at col. 7, lines 33-39.

"...The executable code used by the server 107 or the client 101 to communicate with the proxy 102 (or directly with the counterpart client of the server 107) for synchronization is referred to as a sync API (Application Program Interface) 206 (further described with respect to FIG. 13 below)..." at col. 8, lines 9-14.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Huang with Stokes, Prasad, and Cole to provide a change sequence number pending list in order to provide orderly coordination for the coming update. Stokes, Prasad, Cole, and Huang have similar applications and use many technologies in common. Stokes, Prasad, Cole, and Huang teach the use of directories, the use of protocol, the use of servers, the updating of data, and the use of numbers, and Prasad, Cole, and Huang teach the use of computers, the use of databases, and the use of networks. Stokes provides consumer and supplier servers and replica update vectors, Prasad provides comparing replicate update vectors and directory trees, Cole provides minimal sets of entries, and Huang provides application program interfaces.

Response to Arguments

20. Applicants' arguments filed 22 March 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the first argument for independent claim 1 on page 6, paragraphs 3 and 4, the Applicants state:

"Specifically, the Examiner has admitted that Stokes fails to teach the use of pluggable services, performing comparisons, and the determining of a minimal set of entries. (See Office Action mailed June 17, 2005, p. 3). Further, the Examiner admits that Crowe fails to teach performing comparisons and determining a minimal set of entries as recited in the claims. (See Office Action mailed June 17, 2005, p. 4). However, the Examiner relies on Cole to teach performing comparisons and determining a minimal set of entries. The applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. In particular, Cole fails to teach or suggest a replica update vector comprises a minimal set of entries required to synchronize two servers.

Rather, Cole only discloses a minimal set of "code updates that are necessary for a client to ensure compatibility between programs within the client," without any mention of directory server entries necessary to synchronize two servers. (See, e.g. Cole, col. 6, 11. 61-67). In fact, Cole is completely silent with respect to determining 'a minimal set of entries required to synchronize directory information trees between two servers."

The Examiner disagrees. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The van Hoff reference has been substituted for the Crowe reference. Van Hoff teaches the use of directory trees at col. 9, lines 56-58. A combination of references from Stokes and Cole teaches the limitation "a replica update vector comprises a minimal set of entries required to synchronize two servers". Stokes teaches "wherein the replica update vector" at p. 6, sec. 5.2 and "to synchronize the consumer server with respect to the supplier server" at p. 2, sec. 3 and p. 3, sec. 4 and Cole teaches "used to perform a comparison to determine a minimal set of entries necessary" at col. 4, lines 4-8, col. 6, lines 61-67, and col. 11, lines 44-47. Cole teaches the use of an "itemized list" at col. 11, lines 44-47. This term is used to suggest the term "set of entries" is the limitation.

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21. In the second argument for independent claim 1 on page 7, paragraph 3 and page 8, paragraph 1, the Applicants state:

"As an initial matter, Applicant notes that in all but one of the 103 rejections, various combinations of one or more of four references have been used in rejecting the claims of the present application. The purported reconstruction of the claimed invention by reliance on such a large number of references including, for example, a method for distributing software to many clients over a network (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,536) is not appropriate. It is abundantly clear that the Examiner, using the present application as a guide, has selected isolated features of the various relied-upon references to arrive at the limitations of the claimed invention. Use of the present application as a "road map" for selecting and combining prior art disclosures is wholly improper. See MPEP § 2143; *Interconnect Planning Corp. v. Fell*, 774 F.2d 1132 (Fed. Cir. 1985) (stating that "[t]he invention must be viewed not with the blueprint drawn by the inventor, but in the state of the art that existed at the time"); *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (stating that "it is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or 'template' to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious...This court has previously stated that 'one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention.'"); *In re Wesslau*, 353 F.2d 238 (C.C.P.A. 1965) (stating that "it is impermissible within the framework of section 103 to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art")."

The Examiner disagrees. In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine van Hoff with Stokes to provide pluggable services in order to provide access

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to update applications from a variety of sources. Likewise, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine van Hoff with Stokes to provide hierarchical tree directories in order to use directory tree structures, which are common to many operating systems and gain acceptance from potential users.

Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Cole with Stokes and van Hoff to provide the determination of a minimal set of entries in order to reduce the amount of processing required and lower the cost of maintaining synchronized servers.

22. In the third argument for claim 2 on page 8, paragraph 2, the Applicants state:

"Further, as described above, Stokes, Crowe, and Cole fail to teach or suggest the limitations as recited in amended independent claim 1. Further, van Hoff fails to supply that which Stokes, Crowe, and Cole lack as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner is only relying on van Hoff to teach a directory information tree, (See Office Action mailed June 17, 2005, p. 5). However, van Hoff fails to teach or suggest a minimal set of entries to synchronize two directory information trees on separate servers as recited in the amended claims. In view of the above, it is clear that none of Stokes, Crowe, Cole, and van Hoff, whether considered separately or in combination, render amended independent claim 1 obvious. Dependent claim 2 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested."

The Examiner disagrees. Since the responses to the first two arguments have shown that a combination of Stokes, van Hoff, and Cole has rendered obvious independent claim 1, claim 2 is dependent on independent claim 1, and no additional arguments have been provided for independent claim 1 then claim 2 is still rendered obvious.

23. In the fourth argument for claim 3 on page 8, paragraph 4, the Applicants state:

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"As described above, Stokes, Crowe, and Cole fail to disclose the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, Wong fails to supply that which Stokes, Crowe, and Cole lack as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner has only relied upon Wong to teach a chained sequence number. (See Office Action mailed June 17, 20(15, p. 6)_ In view of the above, it is clear that none of Stokes, Crowe, Cole, and Wong, whether considered separately or in combination, render amended independent claim 1 obvious. Dependent claim 3 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested."

The Examiner disagrees. Since a combination of Stokes, van Hoff, and Cole render obvious independent claim 1 there is no additional requirement that Wong also render obvious independent claim 1. Since the responses to the first two arguments have shown that independent claim 1 is still rendered obvious, claim 3 is dependent on independent claim 1, and no additional arguments have been made for claim 3 then claim 3 is still rendered obvious.

24. In the fifth argument for claim 5 on page 9, paragraph 2, the Applicants state:

"As described above, Stokes, Crowe, and Cole fail to disclose the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, Huang fails to supply that which Stokes, Crowe, and Cole lack as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner has only relied upon Huang to teach an application programming interface. (See Office Action mailed June 17, 2005, p. 7). In view of the above, it is clear that none of Stokes, Crowe, Cole, and Huang, whether considered separately or in combination, render amended independent claim 1 obvious. Dependent claim 5 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested."

The Examiner disagrees. Since a combination of Stokes, van Hoff, and Cole render obvious independent claim 1 there is no additional requirement that Huang also render obvious independent claim 1. Since the responses to the first two arguments have shown that independent claim 1 is still rendered obvious, claim 5 is dependent on

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independent claim 1, and no additional arguments have been made for claim 5 then claim 5 is still rendered obvious.

25. In the sixth argument for independent claims 6 and 13 on page 9, paragraphs 4 and 5, the Applicants state:

“As described above, Stokes and Cole fail to disclose the limitations of the amended claims. Further, Gchani fails to supply that which Stokes and Cole lack as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner only relied upon Gehani relates the general concept of using replica update vectors without teaching or suggesting a replica update vector that includes a minimal set of entries used to synchronize the directory information trees of two directory servers. (See Office Action mailed June 17, 2005, p. 9). In view of the above, it is clear that none of Stokes, Gehani, and Cole, whether considered separately or in combination, render amended independent claims 6 and 13 obvious.”

The Examiner disagrees. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6 and 13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Prasad reference has been substituted for the Crowe reference. Prasad teaches the use of directory trees at col. 8, lines 22-26. This argument is a combination of two limitations. A combination of Stokes and Prasad teach the limitation “wherein the replica update vector comprises entries of a portion of a directory information tree”. Stokes teaches “wherein the replica update vector” at p. 6, sec. 5.2 and Prasad teaches comprises entries of a portion of a directory information tree” at col. 9, lines 66-67, col. 10, lines 1-2, col. 9, lines 10-15, and col. 8, lines 22-26. A combination of Stokes and Cole teach the limitation “wherein the minimal set of entries is the smallest possible set of entries necessary to synchronize the consumer server with the supplier server”. Cole teaches “wherein the minimal set of entries is the smallest possible set of entries necessary” at col. 6, lines 61-67 and col. 11, lines 44-47 and Stokes teaches “to synchronize the

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consumer server with the supplier server” at p. 2, sec. 3 and p. 3, sec. 4. Cole teaches the use of an “itemized list” at col. 11, lines 44-47. This term is used to suggest the term “set of entries” is the limitation.

26. In the seventh argument for claims 7, 10, and 11 on page 9, paragraph 5, the Applicants state:

“Dependent claims 7, 10, and 11 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.”

The Examiner disagrees. Since the response to the sixth argument has shown that a combination of Stokes, Prasad, and Cole render obvious independent claim 6, claims 7, 10, and 11 are dependent on independent claim 6, and no additional arguments have been made for claims 7, 10, and 11 then claims 7, 10, and 11 are still rendered obvious.

27. In the eighth argument for claim 8 on page 10, paragraph 2, the Applicants state:

“As described above, none of Stokes, Gehani, Cole, and van Hoff disclose all the limitations of the amended independent claims. Particularly, none of Stokes, Gehani, Cole, and van Hoff discloses using a minimal set of entries to synchronize directory information trees on two separate servers. Thus, it is clear that none of Stokes, Gehani, Cole, and van Hoff, whether considered separately or in combination, render amended independent claim 6 obvious. Dependent claim 8 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.”

The Examiner disagrees. Since the response to the sixth argument has shown that a combination of Stokes, Prasad, and Cole render obvious independent claim 6 and the Prasad reference has replaced the van Hoff reference for claim 8 there is no requirement for van Hoff to render obvious independent claim 6. Since the response to the sixth argument has shown that independent claim 6 is rendered obvious, claim 8 is

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dependent on independent claim 6, and no additional arguments have been made for claim 8 then claim 8 is still rendered obvious.

28. In the ninth argument for claim 9 on page 10, paragraph 4, the Applicants state:

"As described above, none of Stokes, Gehani, Cole, and Wong disclose all the limitations of amended independent claim 6. Particularly, none of Stokes, Gehani, Cole, and Wong discloses using a minimal set of entries to synchronize directory information trees for two separate directory servers. Thus, it is clear that none of Stokes, Gehani, Cole, and Wong, whether considered separately or in combination, render amended independent claim 6 obvious. Dependent claim 9 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested."

The Examiner disagrees. Since the response to the sixth argument has shown that a combination of Stokes, Prasad, and Cole render obvious independent claim 6 there is no requirement for Wong to render obvious independent claim 6. Since the response to the sixth argument has shown that independent claim 6 is rendered obvious, claim 9 is dependent on independent claim 6, and no additional arguments have been made for claim 9 then claim 9 is still rendered obvious.

29. In the tenth argument for claim 11 on page 11, paragraph 1, the Applicants state:

"As described above, none of Stokes, Gehani, Cole, and Huang disclose all the limitations of amended independent claim 6. Particularly, none of Stokes, Gehani, Cole, and Huang discloses using a minimal set of entries to synchronize directory information tree for two separate directory servers. Thus, it is clear that none of Stokes, Gehani, Cole, and Huang, whether considered separately or in combination, render amended independent claim 6 obvious. Dependent claim 11 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested."

The Examiner disagrees. Since the response to the sixth argument has shown that a combination of Stokes, Prasad, and Cole render obvious independent claim 6 there is

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no requirement for Huang to render obvious independent claim 6. Since the response to the sixth argument has shown that independent claim 6 is rendered obvious, claim 11 is dependent on independent claim 6, and no additional arguments have been made for claim 11 then claim 11 is still rendered obvious.

Conclusion

30. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

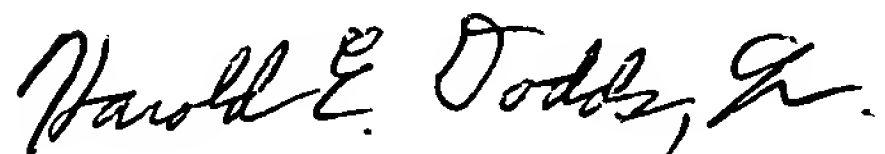
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

31. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold E. Dodds, Jr. whose telephone number is (571)-272-4110. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30.

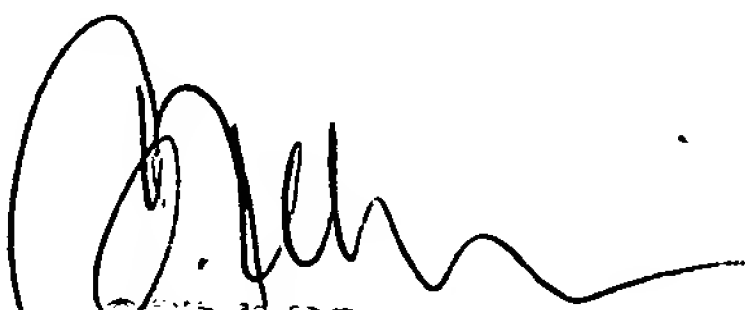
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on (571)-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Harold E. Dodds, Jr.
Patent Examiner
November 23, 2005


STEVEN ROBINSON
PATENT EXAMINER